

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2, line 6, change "leafs" to --leaves--.

On page 4, line 6, change "they such files" to --such files are--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for indexing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) defining in the computer system at least one list [of at least one pre-defined category description] having a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other;
- (b) accepting user input associating with a file at least one category description selected from at least one defined list;
- (c) storing in the data storage system, separately from the file, a file record containing at least the file name, file location information, and the associated category descriptions for the file.

2. (Twice Amended) A method for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, and stored in the data storage system are file records, one for each selected file, comprising at least the file name, file location information, and at least one associated category description for the selected file, each such category description being selected from at least one defined list [of at least one pre-defined category description] having a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) displaying at least one defined list of [at least one pre-defined] category [description] descriptions,
  - (b) accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from at least one defined list;
  - (c) disabling in the computer system selectability of all category descriptions in each displayed defined list that would not provide a logical match to the category descriptions of the defined search filter.

3. (Twice Amended) A method for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, and stored in the data storage system are file records, one for each selected file, comprising at least the file name, file location information, and at least one associated category description for the selected file, each such category description being selected from at least one defined list [of at least one pre-defined category description] having a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) displaying at least one defined list of [at least one pre-defined] category [description] descriptions;
  - (b) accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from at least one defined list;
  - (c) searching in the computer system the category descriptions of each stored file record for a logical match to the category descriptions of the defined search filter;
  - (d) displaying the file name of all file records having category descriptions that logically match each category description of the defined search filter.

4. (Twice Amended) A method for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, the method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) defining in the computer system at least one list [of at least one pre-defined category description] having a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other;
  - (b) accepting user input associating with a file at least one category description from at least one defined list;
  - (c) storing in the data storage system a file record containing at least the file name, file location information, and the associated category descriptions for the file;
  - (d) displaying each defined list;
  - (e) accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from at least one displayed defined list;
  - (f) searching in the computer system the category descriptions of each stored file record for a logical match to the category descriptions of the defined search filter;
  - (g) displaying the file [name] names of all file records having category descriptions that logically match each category description of the defined search filter.

7. (Twice Amended) A method for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, the method comprising the steps of:

- Sub 103  
C2
- (a) creating in the computer system a category description table containing [at least one category] a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other;
  - (b) creating in the computer system a file information directory comprising at least one entry corresponding to a file on the data storage system, each entry comprising at least a unique file identifier for the corresponding file, and a set of [categories] category descriptions selected from the category description table; and
  - (c) creating in the computer system a search filter comprising a set of [categories] category descriptions, wherein for each category description in the search filter there is guaranteed to be at least one entry in the file information directory having a set of [categories] category descriptions matching the set of [categories] category descriptions of the search filter.

28. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim <sup>1</sup>7, wherein each category description comprises a user defined category name and a unique category description identifier created by the computer system.

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38. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim <sup>2</sup>8, wherein each category description further comprises a category type designation.

40. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim <sup>3</sup>8, wherein the step of creating a category description table comprises the steps of:

- (1) accepting user input defining a new category description;
- (2) displaying the new category description;
- (3) creating a unique category description identifier associated with the new category description; and
- (4) storing the new category [name] description and unique category description identifier in the category description table.

5/11. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim <sup>4</sup>10, wherein the step of creating a file information directory comprises the steps of:

- (1) accepting user input selecting a file;
- (2) displaying each category description in the category description table;
- (3) accepting user input associating the selected file with at least one category description selected by the user from the displayed [categories] category descriptions;
- (4) creating a new entry in the file information directory;
- (5) storing in the new entry the file identifier of the selected file; and
- (6) storing in the new entry the category description identifier of each of the selected [categories] category descriptions.

7/13. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim <sup>1</sup>17, wherein the step of creating a search filter comprises the steps of:

- (1) disabling [categories] category descriptions which if added to the search filter would not match the [categories] category descriptions of at least one entry in the file information directory;
- (2) accepting user input selecting at least one category description as a component of the search filter.

8/14. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim <sup>7</sup>13, wherein disabled [categories] category descriptions are indicated by means of a unique display attribute.

11/15. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim <sup>7</sup>13, wherein each category description comprises a user defined category description name and a unique category description identifier created by the computer system, and further including the step of displaying the name of each file in the file information directory having category description identifiers matching the category description identifiers of the [categories] category descriptions in the search filter.

9/19. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim <sup>7</sup>13, wherein the step of creating a search filter further comprises the steps of:

- (1) relating at least two selected [categories] category descriptions with logical operations.

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20. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim ~~13~~<sup>7</sup>, wherein the data storage system includes the time of creation of each file, and the step of creating a search filter further comprises the [steps] step of:

- (1) accepting user input defining a time range to limit matching to only those entries in the file information directory having creation times in the selected time range.

21. (Amended) A system for indexing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, the system comprising:

- C5
- (a) means for defining in the computer system at least one list [of at least one pre-defined category description] having a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationships with each other;
  - (b) means for accepting user input associating with a file at least one category description selected from at least one defined list;
  - (c) means for storing in the data storage system, separately from the file, a file record containing at least the file name, file location information, and the associated category descriptions for the file.

22. (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, and stored in the data storage system are file records, one for each selected file, comprising at least the file name, file location information, and at least one associated category description for the selected file, each such category description being selected from at least one defined list [of at least one pre-defined category description] having a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other, the system comprising:

- (a) means for displaying at least one defined list of [at least one pre-defined] category [description] descriptions;
- (b) means for accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from at least one defined list;
- (c) means for disabling in the computer system selectability of all category descriptions in each displayed defined list that would not provide a logical match to the category descriptions of the defined search filter.



23. (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, and stored in the data storage system are file records, one for each selected file, comprising at least the file name, file location information, and at least one associated category description for the selected file, each such category description being selected from at least one defined list [of at least one pre-defined category description] having a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other, the system comprising:

- C15
- (a) means for displaying at least one defined list of [at least one pre-defined] category [description] descriptions;
  - (b) means for accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from at least one defined list;
  - (c) means for searching in the computer system the category descriptions of each stored file record for a logical match to the category descriptions of the defined search filter;
  - (d) means for displaying the file name of all file records having category descriptions that logically match each category description of the defined search filter.

24. (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, the system comprising:

- Sub D4
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- (a) means for defining in the computer system at least one list [of at least one pre-defined category description] having a plurality of category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other;
  - (b) means for accepting user input associating with a file at least one category description from at least one defined list;
  - (c) means for storing in the data storage system a file record containing at least the file name, file location information, and the associated category descriptions for the file;
  - (d) means for displaying each defined list;
  - (e) means for accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from at least one displayed defined list;
  - (f) means for searching in the computer system the category descriptions of each stored file record for a logical match to the category descriptions of the defined search filter;
  - (g) means for displaying the file [name] names of all file records having category descriptions that logically match each category description of the defined search filter.

27. (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system comprising:

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- Sub D6
- (a) a plurality of files in a data storage system;
  - (b) a plurality of user-defined [categories] category descriptions, each category description comprising a descriptive name, the category descriptions having no predefined hierarchical relationship with such list or each other;
  - (c) file association means for associating at least one file with at least one category description selected from the plurality of user-defined [categories] category descriptions;
  - (d) category description addition means for adding one or more additional [categories] category descriptions to the plurality of user-defined [categories] category descriptions; and
  - (e) category linking means for linking at least one linking category description to at least one linked category description, such that if a specific file is associated with a linking category description, the user must also associate that specific file with at least one of the linked [categories] category descriptions corresponding to the linking category description.

<sup>16</sup>  
30. (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system as set forth in claim <sup>15</sup>27, further including a linking reminder activated upon associating a specific file with a linking category description, such that the linking reminder provides an indication to the user that the user must associate that file with at least one of the linked [categories] category descriptions corresponding to the linking category description.